

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 7 and 14 are amended and Claims 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 18, 23 and 24 are cancelled. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof, is earnestly requested. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 14-17 and 19-22 are currently pending.

Claims 1 and 4-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the term "at least one of said first instrument part and" objected to by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 4-11, 14-17 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Drapeau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,682,010). However, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Moreover, Applicant believes that Claim 23 should also have been allowable, as it requires the same limitation as allowable Claim 12, and because the Examiner did not reject Claim 23.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 12 (there being no intervening claims), and Claim 14 has been amended to include

the limitations of what Applicant believes to be allowable Claim 23 (there also being no intervening claims). In view of the above, Applicant believes that Claims 1 and 14, as well as all pending dependent claims, are in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 14-17 and 19-22, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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